Claims

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

first and second inkjet printheads movable between printing and servicing regions, wherein:

the first printhead dispenses a first ink formulation comprising first components and solid components which form dried ink residue after the first components evaporate, and

the second printhead dispenses a second ink formulation comprising second components and other components which remain as non-dried ink sludge after the second components evaporate; and

a spittoon within the servicing region configured to accumulate a puddle of the first ink formulation therein followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, and to splatter the second ink formulation out of said puddle for evaporation of the said second components and accumulation of said non-dried ink sludge beyond said puddle.

17. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises:

plural adjoining side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said first and second printheads at a given time; and

a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

18. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises:

an ink spit receiving structure defining a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said first and second printheads at a given time;

an ink accumulating structure coupled to receive ink from the ink spit receiving structure, the accumulating structure having a bottom wall with an area sized smaller than the mouth size; and

an ink transfer structure extending from the ink spit receiving structure to the ink accumulating structure, comprising side walls which taper downwardly and inwardly from the mouth to join the bottom wall.

19. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises an ink receiving structure defining a mouth sized to surround a spitting location where said printheads separately spit ink into the spittoon, a catch basin having a bottom wall sized smaller than the mouth, and a pair of opposing side walls each tapering upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall toward the mouth.

20-26. (Canceled)

27. (previously presented) A spittoon for receiving ink spit from plural inkjet printheads, comprising:

plural adjoining side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time; and

a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

28. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein said plural adjoining side walls are substantially upright.

29. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein the catch basin includes a second tapered wall opposite said one tapered wall, with the second tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of a second one of said plural side walls opposite said one of said plural side walls.

30. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein said plural adjoining side walls define said mouth with a substantially rectangular shape.

31. (previously presented) A spittoon for receiving ink spit from plural inkjet printheads, comprising:

an ink spit receiving structure defining a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time;

an ink accumulating structure coupled to receive ink from the ink spit receiving structure, the accumulating structure having a bottom wall with an area sized smaller than the mouth size; and

an ink transfer structure extending from the ink spit receiving structure to the ink accumulating structure, comprising side walls which taper downwardly and inwardly from the mouth to join the bottom wall,

wherein the ink spit receiving structure includes plural adjoining side walls which are substantially upright, with each sidewall having an upper edge which define said mouth.

32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein the ink accumulating structure includes a pair of opposing angled side walls which extend angularly away from the bottom wall.

34. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein said mouth has a substantially rectangular shape.

35. (previously presented) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein:

the ink spit receiving structure includes plural adjoining side walls which are substantially upright, with each having an upper edge which define said mouth;

said mouth has a substantially rectangular shape;

said bottom wall has a substantially rectangular shape; and

the ink accumulating structure includes a pair of opposing angled side walls which extend angularly away from the bottom wall.

36. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

plural inkjet printheads movable across a printzone and into a servicing region; and

a spittoon within the servicing region comprising plural side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time, and a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

37. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein the catch basin comprises a pair of opposing tapered walls each extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to the lower edge of each of a pair of opposing side walls of said plural side walls.

38. (previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein said plural side walls are substantially upright, and said plural side walls define said mouth with a substantially rectangular shape.

39. (currently amended) ~~An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein:~~

An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

plural inkjet printheads movable across a printzone and into a servicing region;

a spittoon within the servicing region comprising plural side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time, and a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls;

wherein a first of said plural inkjet printheads dispenses a first ink formulation comprising first components and solid components which form dried ink residue after the first components evaporate;

a second of said plural inkjet printheads dispenses a second ink formulation comprising second components and other components which remain as non-dried ink residue sludge after the second components evaporate; and

the catch basin comprises a structure which, upon accumulating a puddle of the first ink formulation therein, followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, causes the second ink formulation to splatter onto said at least one tapered wall for evaporation of said second components and accumulation of at least a portion of said non-dried ink residue thereon.